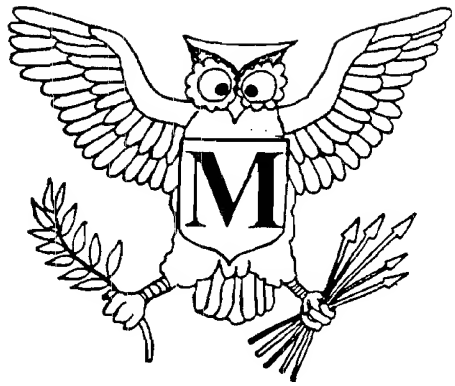
DIPLOMAG

This is the bimonthly newsletter of the American Mensa Postal Diplomacy SIG, bringing hobby and SIG news to Mensans interested in Postal Diplomacy and related events. The SIG arranges postal games for its members, including first games for novices. For SIG game openings, contact the Chairman. As each 7-player game list is filled, the game will be "farmed out" to a Mensa GM. Membership dues are $5.00 per year, or two years for $9.00. Diplomacy is a board game copyrighted in the U.S.A. by The Avalon Hill Game Co. of Baltimore, Maryland. Any opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of American Mensa, Ltd.



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NEWS FLASHES

I've been informed that the new DeLuxe Diplomacy sets have appeared on sale in some areas, at the price of $55.00. I can only state that when I checked two game stores in my area a few days after Christmas, they had not yet made their appearance there. If you buy a DeLuxe set, see if the manager will let you open the box first. It's reported that some of the early production runs are deficient in game parts. 'Tis alleged that the entire German Navy was missing from one set! (See earlier story below).

The 1993 PDO Hobby Census is out. My copy arrived on January 9th. The number of players listed has dropped from 777 to 668. However, the mailing lists for certain major zines, EXCELSIOR, GRAUSTARK and THE CANADIAN DIPLOMAT, were not furnished, so doubtlessly there are more than 668 people in our hobby. The biggest dropoff was in Canadian players, where there was a 37% percent drop from the 1992 Census. Since two of the above three zines are published in Canada, this could account for part of the Canadian dropoff. Another cause may be due to the scarcity of Diplomacy sets in Canadian shops in 1991/92. We do depend on New Blood to sustain this hobby, and if people can't buy the game in the first place, how are they ever going to hear about Postal play? Hey, Avalon Hill, get them thar Dippy sets out to the Frozen North vite, eh?

To obtain your copy, send $1.00 to: Doug Kent, 54 W. Cherry St., #211, Rahway, N.J. 07065. You'll see a significant number of SIG members (nearly 9%) on this List.

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DE LUXE DIPLOMACY SETS ABOUT READY TO GO ON SALE

Rex Martin was kind enough to send me an advance copy of the 1992 DIPLOMACY Rulebook, which will be included in the new sets coming on the market shortly. (Hopefully, in February 1993). The 1992 Rulebook is a quantum leap above the older sets of Rules. To begin with, it's on 8½ x 11 pages. There are improvements in the syntax, including in a few cases a change in the order in which the rules are presented. Also, there are color maps illustrating possible strategic goals for all seven Powers. In each case, the specific country is shown in red, with red arrows showing possible routes for advancement. The text for these sections is mainly taken from the old Gamer's Guide to Diplomacy. On the back page, the new Diplomacy By Mail flyer is reproduced. This will eventually be made available in quantity to all gamestores, and to all publishers who wish to distribute them. (Our SIG will receive copies to send out with our replies to mail inquiries).

There's one important change in the Rulebook. The former Rule VII, "Orders, etc." is divided into two rules. Rule VII, "Orders," contains 4½ of the previous 7 sections, arranged in better chronological order. New Rule VIII, "The Move Order," contains the second half of the original Rule VII. 1, plus the former secs. VII. 2 and VII. 3. This means that each of the following rules are changed to be one number higher.

Thus, the "Convoy Order" is now Rule XIII instead of Rule XII. The sections which were added or revised in the 1983 ("1982") Rulebook, Secs. 4, 5 & 6, appear exactly as they did in the former Rulebook. I can see future problems arising in International games if the new Rulebook format is not adopted by foreign publishers. I've already sent letters to some of the prominent European publishers, giving them advance notice that the North American Rulebook is going to change.

A new map has been created, on which all of the province's names are printed rightside-up! Great! No more trying to read some of the names upside-down. This is a completely new map, depending heavily on an ancient atlas printed in England circa 1914. Accordingly, some of the provincial boundaries look strange to we Old Timers' eyes. This is particularly true for Poland, Gascony, Silesia, Ukraine and Vienna. In the case of Poland, the new map shows a more accurate shape. However, all of the spacial connections remain unchanged. The Caspian Sea has disappeared from the board.

There is one spelling error on the new map. Burgundy is spelled "Burgandy." This was copied directly from the old 1914 atlas. (Rand McNally's Atlas of World History might have been a better reference book. It's the one I use for my variant designs.) Rex states we'll have to live with this error "until the next printing, when I can get the typo corrected on the plates." Remember, you read it here first.

Five prominent Hobby Old Timers are listed by name and address on the PBM Flyer. These are: John Caruso (Northeast), David Hood (Southeast), Gary Behnen (Midwest), Don del Grande (West) and Cal White (Canada). Each of these people, who are among those least likely to move or drop out of the hobby, will respond to inquiries with a longer brochure giving more details on the Postal hobby. Hopefully, a copy of PONTEVEDRIA (the Games Openings flyer) will be included. I like the flyer very much. My only suggestion would be to add a couple more people to the list of contacts, such as someone from Florida; someone from Illinois or Michigan; and perhaps someone from British Columbia or our Pacific Northwest. Think about this guys, for the next printing.

The DeLuxe sets are to be sold for $55.00 each. Expensive, but they will contain Wooden Blocks, as we purists have always insisted upon. There will also be stickers to apply to the blocks as an aid to identification. Helpful if you run out of the right color blocks and have to use an eliminated Power's blocks. Don't know whether any of the "original" $25 sets will remain available after the current supply is exausted. I hope Avalon Hill will keep us informed on this matter. The new Gamers Guide nook will appear sometime this summer. One of the sidebars will contain a plug for the Mensa Postal Diplomacy SIG.

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SPEAKING OF PLUGS, we've recently arranged for a Trade with the Mensa MMonarchy SIG's quarterly newsletter, MMONARCHIST. It turns out that its Coordinator, Gary Fellman, is well-aquainted with the game of Diplomacy. He is giving us a chance to describe our SIG in his newsltr., and I've promised to plug the MMonarchy SIG here.

Gary always tries to play Russia in Diplomacy, as he has a distant relationship to the Romanov dynasty. He recognized the fun one could have by playing the role of a King, Tsar or Kaiser. If you're interested in the history of monarchies, or on news of the royal families of today (there are still lots of pretenders around), you might be interested in joining his SIG. Dues are $9.00 per year, but a Sample copy is available for a SASE. The current issue contained 20 pages of well-printed material, including some graphs, photos, and a family tree for the early English monarchy. To join or obtain a copy, contact: Gary L. Fellman, Coordinator, MMonarchist SIG, 9 Wilson St., Danbury, CT. 06810.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We picked up two new members since the last issue was published, and also picked up a new Subscriber. I was also glad to see that one of our old members, Peter Palumbo, renewed his membership in late November.

Does anyone have a current address for Imad Libbus? His November DIPLOMAG was returned from Chapel Hill, N.C. marked "Moved. Forward Order Expired." Since a forwarding order is good for one year, he must have moved at least a year ago.

Our newest readers are:

Bryan S. Jenkins, 6455 N. Sheridan Rd., #902, Chicago, Ill. 60626
Tom Walsh, 10015 - 31st Ave., N., Plymouth, MN. 55441
Andreas Phelps, 4544 Cadison St., Torrance, CA. 90503 (Subscriber)

Bryan lives in Rogers Park, my old neighborhood in Chicago, about one mile from my old high school. As a matter of fact, I drove past his high rise building when we were in Chicago in October, but I didn't know him then, or I would have dropped in.

I must regretfully announce that SIG member Sam Polak is deceased. He died around November 1, 1992. He was only 21.

Lastly, please correct the spelling of Keith Sesler's last name. I had inadvertently spelled it with two S's in the Membership List.

Several people's SIG dues will run out on February 28, 1993. I hope you will all send me checks for $9.00 for two-year renewals, to avoid the paperwork and postage of one-year renewals. However, I'm not proud, so I'll gladly accept a payment of $5.00 for a one-year renewal if that's what you wish to do.

You are:

Ram Avrahami, Julien Beasley, Michael O'Rourke, Matt Schonlau, Sig Street, and Cliff Woodhall.

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REFERENDUM REPORT

Of those members who responded, the majority were opposed to opening up the Diplomacy SIG for the play of other than Dip-type games. I find myself in agreement with the majority on this. The majority were in favor of our trying to get a plug for our SIG in the PBM flyer in the game box or the Gamer's Guide; and for exploring the possibilities of paid advertising in the MENSA BULLETIN or THE GENERAL.

THE SIG will be mentioned in the forthcoming new edition of the Gamer's Guide to Diplomacy. Copy has already been forwarded to Rex Martin at Avalon Hill. We have to thank Rex for allowing us this plug. We also submitted a small ad for the "Opponent's Wanted" section of THE GENERAL. We were too late to get a mention in the PBM flyer, but we'll be getting some copies to include with our future responses to SIG inquiries. This flyer ought to bring more people into the general hobby, and perhaps we'll be able to recruit some of them for the Mensa DipSIG.

It was decided that this was not the proper time to consider an ad in the BULLETIN, what with the Dues Increase and the upcoming election attracting so much attention. We'll make an inquiry on this matter in about six months.

SIG FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 1992

Things looked poorly as of September 1st, as several old members did not renew, and we had picked up a total of only 7 new members all year. However, things turned around in the Fall, as we gained five new members, two "outside" subbers, and regained one old member. Also, most of our renewals were at the rate of $9.00 for two years, so we won't have to be bothering those people for more money for nearly two years. This saves on both time and postage.

Opening balance, January 1, 1992:		$93.12	
INCOME:			
Dues & Subs Received	$218.00		
Sample copy payments	10.79		
Sales of SUPERNOVA	7.00		
Donations	2.00		
	$237.79	+237.79	
		$330.91	
EXPENSES:			
Postage for DIPLOMAG (6 issues)	$129.94		
Postage, Sample copies & Misc.	21.03		
Postage, material for new members	4.79		
Printing, DIPLOMAG (6 issues)	38.57		
Photocopies	6.93		
Phone calls	11.88		
Supplies	3.90		
Contribution to SIG Library moving project	5.00		
	$222.04	-222.04	
Closing Balance, Dec. 31, 1992:		$108.87	(+$15.75)

Misc. postage and phone calls went up this year, as two publishers folded and a couple of zines were overdue, causing some administrative actions to be made by your Chairman, inclding adjudication of one season of the Mensa #30 game (1989 Y). The SIG Newsltr Library had to be moved from one city to another, and all American Mensa SIGS were requested to make a contribution toward that move.

I do not charge the SIG for the purchase of ordinary envelopes, typewriter ribbons or other routine supplies, as they're also used for other non-SIG purposes. I donate some other costs as well. Also, some of our printing is done at no cost to the SIG. As long as that continues, we're in good financial shape. Now, if only we could persuade all of our members to renew their memberships every year!

Donations to the SIG Treasury are gratefully accepted.

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TWO PEOPLE have offered to run future Mensa Diplomacy games. I'll be getting back to you shortly about running the Mensa #43 game. See information at the end of the Mensa Game Reports about Keith Sesler running the Mensa #42 game.

ATLANTICA IV - 1991B oa06 (Mensa Variant #6) FEBRUARY 1872

VOTE ON ENGLAND-ITALY DRAW UNANIMOUS. ALL UNITS HOLD IN FEBRUARY PER GM'S DECISION. BRITS GAIN HALIFAX & NORWAY, TO GIVE ENGLAND & ITALY A TOTAL OF 27 SC's.

Per my House Rules, this game will end on a "Fall" move (February), since the "Spring" move had already been played. However, I felt there was no point in printing the actual February moves, since England and Italy combined now owned a total of 27 SC's, which are half the number on the board, and only 7 short of the number for them to have declared an "Alliance Victory." For the record, the USA-Canada two-way Draw and the Draw to include all surviving Powers except Mexico received 2 "Yes" and 3 "No" votes. Here is the final Supply Center Count:

		Totals
ENGLAND (Marcinonis):	Gains HALIFAX, NORWAY	13 (+2)
ITALY (B.Johnson):	No change	14 (—)
CANADA (Chang):	Loses ~~HALIFAX, NORWAY~~	7 (-2)
MEXICO (R. Brown):	Loses ~~TEXAS~~	6 (-1)
U.S.A. (York):	Gains TEXAS	14 (+1)

	Start	June 1870	Sept	Dec	Mar 1871	June	Sept	Dec.	Mar 1872	
ENGLAND (Bill Young)1. (Ken Marcinonis):	4	6	9	10	9	8	9	11	13	2-Way Draw
FRANCE (Jeff Suchard)2. (George Kilmer)3. (John Schultz):	4	3	3	2	1	0	-			
GERMANY (Jeff Eide):	4	6	8	6	5	5	2	0	-	
ITALY (Dan Palter)4. (Bo Johnson):	4	6	8	9	9	11	13	14	14	2-Way Draw
CANADA (Fred Chang):	4	6	5	6	7	7	9	9	7	
C.S.A. (Imad Libbus):	4	2*	0	-						
MEXICO (Ron Brown):	4	6	9	9	7	8	7	7	6	
U.S.A. (Andy York):	5	8	12	12	16	15	14	13	14	Third place

Game Started: March 11, 1991 (first Deadline)
Game Ended: January 12, 1993 (last Deadline)
(The equivalent of 8 Standard game-years were played).

1. Bill Young resigned w/Oct. 1871 orders. Marcinonis took over in Nov. 1871.
2. Suchard resigned w/May 1870 orders. Kilmer took over in June 1870.
3. Kilmer NMR'd out in Feb. 1871. Schultz took over in March 1871.
4. Palter NMR'd out in Oct. 1870. Bo Johnson took over with the Oct. 1870 moves.

GM's Comments: I was surprised that everyone agreed to end the game this quickly. However, if the English-Italian alliance had held, little could have been done at this point to prevent them from gaining another 7 Centers for an Alliance Victory. It's unusal to see the win go to two replacement players, although in Italy's case, Bo Johnson's win was due strictly to his own efforts. Dan Palter's Italy was sputtering along, with an NMR or two, as his constant travelling kept him from keeping up with the game. Bill Young has to get some credit for the English win, as Ken only inherited the position for the last 1½ game-years.

Back in March 1871, when USA zoomed up to 16 SC's, I thought USA was going to run away with the game. Mexico and Italy did a good job of bringing him down. It was a pleasure to see two highly skilled players like Ron Brown and Andy York do battle with each other. I believe Atlantica IV is better-balanced than the preceding versions, but I'd like to have your opinions on this.

I'd like to have End-game comments from everyone, but especially from all of the survivors plus Bill Young. I'll print them in the March DIPLOMAG.
them here by TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, so I'll have time to review them. (There won't be any mail delivery on Feb. 15th). I'd be happy to have your comments typed and camera ready for publication. All of you are invited to participate in the next Variant to be run in DIPLOMAG. You may wish to suggest a game or two which you'd like to play. I'll also make a few suggestions here in March.

DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONT (MENSA GAME REPORTS)

MENSA #30, 1989 Y. GM: Craig A. Reges, AGAINST THE ODDS

The proposed concession to France (Ralph Baty) failed in Fall 1912. While some Centers changed hands, there was no change in the SC count at the end of 1912. France remains tied at 11 with Turkey (Kate Robison), while Germany (Tony Dousette) and Russia (Phil Reynolds) are deadlocked with 6. France and Germany traded Kiel for Munich, while Russia and Turkey traded Vienna for Serbia. A new proposal for a Franco-Turkish Draw is on the table.

MENSA #33, 1990 HT. GM: Eric Young, THE TACTFUL ASSASSIN

Mike Morris returned to control of Germany in Spring 1912. He owns 9 Centers, but has just 8 units on the board. There is a second place tie between Austria (Peter Fuchs) and Russia (Peter Kohnke), with 8 each. There's an unusual situation, with Russian F's in both MAO and NAO, Russia having occupied Britain, but the Russ invasion of Spain was repelled. Andy York's Turkey has 6.

MENSA #36, 1991 IG. GM: Tony Dousette, THE CONTINUAL CRISIS

This game seems to be on hold, following the Spring 1906 orders. Austria (Andy York) leads the pack with 11 Centers. Craig Reges took over the helm of Russia, but has only 2 units left. France (David Hood) had four moves blocked in Spring '06, but still holds second place with 8 SC's. Tony Dousette has announced the founding of a new non-Dip discussion newsltr. to be called THE VILLAGE ATHEIST, to be published separately from TCC, but I haven't received my first copy yet.

MENSA #37, 1991 AF. GM: Ralph Baty, BATYVILLE GAZETTE

There was a brouhaha following the Spring 1904 moves. One player submitted a Second Set of orders which omitted one unit. The GM ruled that that unit should Hold. The player appealed to both the GM and me, but I upheld the GM's decision. Folks, whenever you submit a revised set of orders, be sure to name every unit you own. Because of the Holidays, Ralph gave an extra-long deadline of January 8th for the Fall 1904 orders, so I have little to report except that the two leading Powers are Austria (Jim Lewis) and Turkey (Jim Grose), with 7 Centers each.

MENSA #38, 1992 AP. GM: Craig A. Reges, AGAINST THE ODDS

The Boardman No. finally arrived after Craig had gone to press. By the way, this was ATO #22, not #21 as shown. We're now up to Spring 1903, with Austria (Jim Lewis) and Russia (Steve Gaddy) the leading Powers, with 6 apiece. Russia supported units of three different countries, Austria, England and France, in Spring. Now, that's real diplomacy! He also tried to send his F from Berlin to Denmark, but air power hasn't been invented yet.

MENSA #39, 1992 U. GM: Stephen Glasgow, WAR FAIR

Russia (Mike Morris) gained Sweden in Fall 1902, to go up to 7 Centers. Austria (Julien Beasley) wrested Bulgaria from Turkey, to move into 2nd place with 6. Turkey (Tim Shaw) lost Bul and Smyrna, to drop to 2, and NMR'd the separate Winter season, so the GM removed his F Aegean. There were two interesting convoys. Italy (Cliff Woodhall) did a "Lepanto" on Turkey, convoying an A from Tunis to Smyrna (now has 5), while Germany (Dennis Klein) (C) A Kiel to Livonia, where he has a forked move potential against 2 Russian SC's. However, Dennis was stood off in both Holland and Sweden, to stand at 5. France & England stood pat, with 5 and 4 Centers, respectively.

MENSA #40, 1992?? GM: Eric Young, THE TACTFUL ASSASSIN

The country assignments were announced, and the first deadline was set for Dec. 18th. However, there was a word-of-mouth report that one player was dropping out, so the start has apparently been held up. The assignments I have are as follows: England: Stephen Gaddy, France: Jim Lewis, Germany: Jon Rosenthal, Italy: Carl Nail, Russia: Jim Grose, Turkey: Julien Beasley, and Austria: Stephen Glasgow.

MENSA #41, Starting Up. GM: Ralph Baty, BATYVILLE GAZETTE

This game filled quickly, and Ralph has announced the country assignments already: Austria: Peter Palumbo, England: Linc Beaumont, France: Brian Jenkins, Germany: Stephen Glasgow, Italy: Tom Walsh, Russia: Peter Kohnke, Turkey: Keith Sesler.

★ MENSA #42 will be run by Keith Sesler, who returns to publishing after an 6-year absence. He will write the subzine, I'M STILL ALIVE, in Stephen Glasgow's WAR FAIR. As I write this, we don't have anyone signed up for Mensa #42 yet, so "come on down" and let's get started, especially if your current game is about to end.

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SOME UPCOMING CONS WHERE DIP WILL BE PLAYED

DIXIECON VII. May 29-30 (Memorial Day weekend). University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C. Contact Michael Lowrey, 3005 Kennington Ct., Charlotte, N.C. 28269, or David Hood, 2905 - 20th St., NE, Hickory, N.C. 28601, for details.

ATLANTICON 1993. June 18-20. I've heard that this Con is being moved back from College Park, Md. to Baltimore, but that's all the info I have. Baltimore probably means the Convention Center Downtown, plus the adjacent hotels (connected by second story walkways). Robert Sacks and his New York Games Board will again run the Diplomacy, DipVariant, and other multi-player games, such as Kingmaker, Kremlin, Pax Britannica, Republic of Rome, etc. For info, contact: Atlanticon '93, P.O. Box 91, Beltsville, MD. 20704.

AVALON CON III. July 30-August 1. This Con, which consists of play of many A-H games, is being moved from Harrisburg, PA., to a site just north of Baltimore. I presume it's a college campus, but haven't received definite word. For current info., contact Rex Martin, c/o The Avalon Hill Game Co., 4517 Harford Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21214.

CAN CON VI. This is also scheduled for the same weekend in August, but there's a possibility that it may be changed to avoid conflicting with AvalonCon. Contact Cal White, 1 Turnberry Ave., Toronto, Ont., CANADA M6N 1P6 for details. This will again be held on the campus of the U. of Toronto in Scarborough, in N.E. Toronto metro area.

GEN CON 1993. Milwaukee, Wis. Contact: GenCon Game Fair, P.O. Box 756, Lake Geneva, Wis. 53247. August 20-22, 1993.

So, the Maryland to Carolina area will host three Diplomacy arenas in a 9-week period this summer. Hope to see some of you at one or two of these events. Unfortunately, I expect to be out of town on the Memorial Day weekend. I'm not sure about AtlantiCon, either, as we'll be leaving for the AG in Orlando a few days later. BTW, if you're planning to attend the AG, please let me know. We won't play Dip at the AG, but maybe we can hold a meeting in a phone booth, or spread some copies of DIPLOMAG around in the SIG Room. Maybe even place a map of the board on display.

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This article by Eric Young appeared in his Diplomacy zine, THE TACTFUL ASSASSIN, in November 1992. It's a very brief autobiography. While I disagree with some of Eric's views, I thought this was so well-written that it ought to be seen by the rest of our SIG members.

THE TIP OF THE ICICLE

Someone asked,"Why don't you tell us something about the place you live?" Okay, here's a little bit of family history. I was born in Baltimore in 1950. My dad just finished medical school and over the next four and a half years he did his internship and residency in four places in the East. My parents wanted my sister and me to grow up somewhat removed from the influence of their families which were old time Baltimore. My dad had been in SanFrancisco in the navy during the war and convinced my mother to move to California sight unseen (rather than Rhode Island). At four and a half I moved to the San Jose area. We moved to Palo Alto and then San Mateo when I was seven. My father set up the County Mental Health wing in the county hospital, which was then named after him when my parents were killed in an automobile accident caused by a drunk driver when I was ten. My paternal uncle became our guardian, when he was 26 and just entering residency to also become a psychiatrist.

He decided that the suburban life was a litle too removed for us and we moved to Sausalito when I was 14. My last three years of high school were thus spent in Marin County with easy access to San Francisco. The time was '65 to '68. I was a typical preppie teenager; class president, student council, swimmer, runner, football player, etc. I partook of much of what was going on in SF. The concerts at the Filmore and Winterland, in Golden Gate Park and at Monterey. I loved to roam in the wilds on Mt Tamalpias and spent countless days at Stinson Beach. I was not immune to the drugs at large at the time (virtually all of them) nor being propositioned by gays who would pick up young guys who were hitch hiking (left that one alone). I knew that there was a war going on but didn't pay it too much attention until my senior year. I was terribly shocked to learn that the government had lied to us about some of the things that were going. A sceptic was being shaped.

I don't remember making the decision to go to university. It seemed that it had always been expected that I would go and so it was just a matter of deciding were to go. I applied to about a dozen institutions in CA but somehow always knew that Berkeley was the best school there was and would go there, so I did. That's when the top came off of everything. I listened to what everyone had to say and it quickly became apparent that the President and government were trying to feed us manure. I became quite involved in the demonstrations that took place; People's Park, Cambodia etc. I threw back the teargas cannisters at the police, county cops and national guard when they were called in. From 30 meters I watched a cop shoot and kill an innocent onlooker on top of a building on Telegraph Ave. I was not an instigator and too young to be in on anything important. The Chronicle interviewed me and three others about what was going on. When my uncle and others saw my picture on the front page they thought I might have been killed, until they read on. Through all this I maintained a 3.3 average and qualified to spend my third year at the exchange campus in Bordeaux, France. Drinking age in CA was 21 and so I was flabbergasted to find that I could now buy any amount of any type of wine I wished. Along with taking courses beside the French students I learned a lot about life. I ballooned to 85 kg, grew a long beard and hair down to the bottom of my shoulderblades.

When I came home after showing my sister and uncle around Europe I dove into my studies. I had started in Math but moved to Geography as a freshman because I wanted to closer to people and loved maps. As a senior I already started taking graduate courses. I was 4.0 for year 4. I started to wake up: got back into sports, weight back down to 75 kg, realized I was hiding behind all that hair, cut the beard and was vegetarian for the year. I had been fighting my draft board for three years over CO status. I was burying them in paper with my appeals etc. I failed my pre-induction physical because I had high blood pressure. 1-Y for the first year after graduation. I also had an English girl friend (met in France). What to do? Didn't know. What am good at? Going to school. Better go to school some more until we find out. I applied up the West coast (not down, hate LA, of course) and across Canada. Got in with TAships everywhere but UBC (the prof had enuf grad students). She got into UBC; I went to Simon Fraser Fall 72.

Relationship lasted three months. We were etrangers in common in France, but very little else in the end. I was still shaky psychically but managed to stand on my own moderately. Sewed many oats on the road to choosing my wife. Cut the hair, got into clothes, enjoyed the freedom of early twentydom. But I was lonely. Bronwen came back from a year in Europe '72-'73 and the first course she took was Geog 101- TA Mr E Young. I had three picked as possible contenders, seeked them all out after the course was over (yes, I expect you to believe that!) and she was miles ahead. We skied, sailed, went to the symphony, played flute, etc. together for two years. We talked 'til all hours, we became best friends and finally lovers. Those talks were a catalyst that brought many things into perspective. We didn't want to be in the city. Why live somewhere and dream about leaving it

on the weekends? Why not live where you feel good and visit the city when you feel the need? I wanted to live in Canada. The USA has too much inertia and pressure that leads it in directions that aren't good for the world. The government finally admitted that the stated intention of US foreign policy was to make the world a safe place for US industry (ie. let us rip you off, guys). And it never seemed to learn from its mistakes; Nicaragua, El Salvadore, Marcos, the Shah, etc. I realized that my uncle's liberalism was too tame, I was a socialist. Canada listens to its socialists, it knows that they have the best ideas (until recently it just didn't want them to be the practitioners). Bronwen received her teaching credential after doing her practicum in Vernon and I got a job at Okanagan College. I found out what I wanted to do: teach. (I kept writing to the draft board all along, still have the card, too; but the Pres called an end to the draft before I had to refuse induction.)

We married early in '77 and bought our piece of property late that Fall; 16.5 acres, 9 of prime hay land with 1 in woods and the rest pasture. We set about building our own log home (completed in three installments) and turning the raw land into a subsistance farm. We decided that this was were we wanted to live and that the jobs would have to fit that, rather than chase the job market. Bad decision to make just before the presidential election of '80. The recession that Reagan plunged the world into caught me by the short ones. The college had no permanent job for me and the move to the public system was punctuated by five years of under-employment (part time, subbing, etc.) Mr Reagan cost me $100000 of income (not to mention the troops he sent after me at Berkeley). Now I knew I belonged in Canada, became a citizen in 1980. We spent lots of energy on make our land into a small farm. I learned how to put up hay, pull a calf from a cow, load pigs into trucks, plow snow on driveways and clay fields into wheat and oats. Many has been the time that we have had friends over for a meal and everything on the plate was produced on the farm, including the wine! One New Years the electricity went out so we just continued cooking the meal on our 1909 cook stove and had a great time. We also had two sons, Elan in '79 and Gresham in '81. Gresham developed liver cancer in '87 and died shortly before Xmas. A heavy toll, and a void impossible to fill, though we did try to adopt.

I know that the part about the present is short but I see things as a continuum. Arriving is not the point, getting there is what it's all about. We want to be where we feel good, where the environment is still strong, the animals still live. In 15 minutes I can be in our canoe on a small lake where a loon will call to me. I can ride our horse up the mountain behind (1 km) our house and have to turn around because we see a bear. I can raise my head up from stacking fire wood to watch a flight of 200 geese heading south. I do less of the work now but our farm still produces more food than three people need to eat in one year. We are semi-vegetarians now so we sell all the beef and use the money to buy salmon and halibut that a local fisherman catches and brings up from the coast. Our customers still say that its the best beef they've ever eaten, one doesn't bother with ordering beef in a restaurant. We recycle everything we can, compost all organic matter (and spread it with the manure), run our vehicles on propane,etc. I contribute to society by being a trustee on the local hospital board. Finally, I try to train our young people to think and become self-aware active members of society.

I have always believed that I (anyone?) could always accomplish anything that I set my mind to do. I always have but it was a humbling experience to push my body to failure and have to walk the last five km of the marathon knowing how fast I can run. I firmly believe that we have to keep the long term perspective in mind. We have to think globally and act locally/personally. I enjoyed this, hope you did.

* * *

If you'd like to sub to THE TACTFUL ASSASIN, send $7.50 (Canadian or U.S.) for the next 10 issues, to: Eric C. Young, 4784 Stepney Rd., RR #2, C2, Armstrong, BC, CANADA VOE 1BO.
Or, send $1.00 for a Sample copy.

If you're interested in new game openings, Eric has several at this time. Here's a list of them:

GAME OPENINGS:

Regular Diplomacy: Have 3 (Wiedermeyer, Touchette, Y.Kent); Need 4. This game is open to all. 3S NMR fee.

Gunboat Diplomacy: Have 5; Need 2. This game is open to all. Will be played with press. 3S NMR fee.

Asian Diplomacy: Have 5 (Dousette, Reynolds, Clingman, McKee, Robison); Need 2. This game is open to all. 3S NMR fee.

THE TACTFUL ASSASSIN

I'M ALSO PLEASED TO REPORT that Stephen Glasgow has several Game Openings in his upgraded zine, WAR FAIR. These include Standard Dip, Landbridge III (by Lee Kendter, Jr., the MNC), Woolworth II-D (by Glenn Overby and Fred Davis), and Balkan Wars VI (by Fred Davis and Brad Wilson). Issue #30 contains maps for all of the variants. Subs are $6.00 for 10 issues. Operates on a 5-week basis. You might want to just send $1.00 for a Sample issue. If so, ask him for a copy of #30, if he has any left, if you'd like to see the Variant Rules & Maps.

NEXT ISSUE, I plan to reprint the article on who were the Rulers, Prime Ministers, Foreign Ministers, etc., in the seven Great Powers in the Spring of 1901. This was first printed by John Boardman in his FREDONIA in 1964. I reprinted it in BUSHWACKER in May 1975, and Ron Brown later reprinted it in his SNAFU! #15, in October 1981. While the Golden Age Press has virtually disappeared, these names may still be of interest to those interested in European history in the early 20th century.

Speaking of centuries, it seems hard to believe that in just 8 years, we'll be moving into the 21st century. It will be hard to get used to dates and Boardman Nos. starting with "2's". Remember, the 21st century begins on January 1, 2001, not 2000, although all of the New Years Eve parties I've heard about are scheduled for December 31, 1999 (including one at the Pyramids, to celebrate their 6,000th birthday). All well and good, but the real celebration should begin on December 31, 2000, ignoring the fact that our dates are wrong by six years to begin with.

REMINDER. MARYLAND MENSA is hosting its "Fooling Around" RG April 2-4, 1993, at a hotel at BWI Airport. There's also an AMTRAK station there, so why not fly or choo-choo your way here for the fun. See the BULLETIN for details, or drop me a line.

Next Issue should come out around our National Holiday, the Ides of March!

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